

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of preventing delamination of multiple layers of at least one polymer container having an opening defined by the multiple layers, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing ~~said container~~ an intermediate article having an opening;
 trimming a waste portion of a perimeter of the intermediate article to form a polymer container having defined by a perimeter at which the multiple layers are at least partially exposed; and

b) heating said perimeter until at least said perimeter is workable[:];

c) providing a curling device; and

d) using said device to curl said perimeter sufficiently to maintain said multiple layers intact and inhibit delamination of the multiple layers from one another.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple layers are totally exposed.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the curl subtends at least about 180°.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the curl subtends at least about 270°.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the curl subtends at least about 360°.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the multiple layers comprise at least inner and outer plastic walls separated by at least one barrier layer located therebetween and extending throughout the container.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the multiple layers are formed by separate nested containers.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6 wherein the container has been trimmed, from an intermediate blow molded article, through the at least one barrier layer to form the opening.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 8 wherein the opening has a trimmed edge forming the perimeter, and the step of comprising using said device to curl the perimeter further comprises curling the perimeter to an extent that the trimmed edge is not exposed to the environment.

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CANCELED)

12. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein only the perimeter of the polymer container is heated to cause a reduction in orientation and shrinkage in both a vertical direction and a hoop direction so that a wall thickness increases and a level of crystallinity in the polymer container begins to increase.

13. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein the heating step preliminary softens the perimeter of the polymer container so that separation due to stiffness and lack of adhesion, between the multiple layers, is delayed whereby the softened perimeter forms a curled perimeter without multiple layers delaminating from one another.

14. (NEW) The method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of, following sufficient curling of the perimeter of the polymer container, allowing the curled perimeter to sufficiently cool so that a mechanical stiffness of the curled perimeter and interlocking of the multiple layers of the curled perimeter prevents separation from one another.

15. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein the curled perimeter advantageously relaxes a memory of the material in a region of the curled perimeter, as a result of the applied heat, which anneals the plastic material and tends to partially crystallize and render the region amorphous.

16. (NEW) A method of preventing delamination of at least one plastic layer from a barrier layer defining a polymer container having an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

a) forming, by a blow molding process, the polymer container having at least one plastic layer and a barrier layer;

b) trimming a waste portion of a perimeter of the polymer container to define the opening of the polymer container whereby the at least one plastic layer and the barrier layer are both at least partially exposed by the trimming step and at least a portion of the perimeter of the polymer container is partially delaminated;

b) heating the perimeter of the polymer container until the perimeter is sufficiently soften;

c) engaging the perimeter of the polymer container with a curling device;
and

d) sufficiently curling the perimeter of the polymer container so that the sufficiently soften perimeter forms a curled perimeter without delamination of the at least one plastic layer and the barrier layer from one another and the sufficiently curled perimeter imparts sufficient resistance to delamination of the at least one plastic layer and the barrier layer from one another.

17. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein the curl subtends at least about 180°.

18. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein the barrier layer is sandwich between an inner plastic layer and an inner plastic layer.

19. (NEW) The method according to claim 18, wherein only the perimeter of the polymer container is heated to cause a reduction in orientation and shrinkage in both a vertical direction and a hoop direction so that a wall thickness increases and a level of crystallinity in the polymer container begins to increase.

20. (NEW) The method according to claim 16, wherein the heating step preliminary softens the perimeter of the polymer container so that separation due to stiffness and lack of adhesion, between the barrier layer and the at least one plastic layer, is delayed whereby the softened perimeter forms a curled perimeter without the barrier layer and the at least one plastic layer delaminating from one another; and

the curled perimeter advantageously relaxes a memory of the material in a region of the curled perimeter, as a result of the applied heat, which anneals the plastic material and tends to partially crystallize and render the region amorphous.

21. (NEW) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of, following sufficient curling of the perimeter of the polymer container, allowing the curled perimeter to sufficiently cool so that a mechanical stiffness of the curled perimeter and interlocking of the barrier layer with the at least one plastic layer of the curled perimeter prevents separation from one another;

22. (NEW) A method of preventing delamination of at least one plastic layer from a barrier layer defining a polymer container having an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

a) forming, by a blow molding process, an intermediate article having at least one plastic layer and a barrier layer;

b) trimming a waste portion of a perimeter of the intermediate article to form the polymer container and define the opening of the polymer container whereby the at least one plastic layer and the barrier layer are both at least partially exposed by the trimming step and at least a portion of the perimeter of the polymer container is partially delaminated;

c) heating the perimeter of the polymer container until the perimeter is sufficiently soften so that separation between the barrier layer and the at least one plastic layer, due to stiffness and lack of adhesion, is delayed;

d) engaging the perimeter of the polymer container with a curling device;
and

e) sufficiently curling the perimeter of the polymer container about an angle of at least about 180° so that the sufficiently soften perimeter forms a curled perimeter without delamination of the at least one plastic layer and the barrier layer from one another and the sufficiently curled perimeter imparts sufficient resistance to delamination of the at least one plastic layer and the barrier layer from one another.